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ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION  
Fifty-second session  
28 October 1970

REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP  
ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

(Geneva, 14-16 October 1970)

1. The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Human Environment Conference held its second session in Geneva from 14 to 16 October 1970 under the chairmanship of Mr. J.A. Mussard. A list of participants is contained in the annex.

Report of the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Human Environment Conference

2. The Working Group accepted amendments to paragraphs 4, 7 and 10 of the report of its first session.<sup>1/</sup>

Tentative list of topics on human settlements

3. The Working Group heard a report by Mr. Ciborowski, Deputy Director, Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, on the meeting of the sub-group on human settlements which had met in Geneva on 12-13 October with the participation of representatives from the United Nations (including ECE), ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and WMO. As a result of the discussion, a list of vertical topics<sup>2/</sup> to be studied in connexion with area (a), human settlements was agreed upon. The list

<sup>1/</sup> See CO-ORDINATION/R.823/Corr.1.

<sup>2/</sup> "Vertical" subjects are those corresponding broadly to the three areas defined by the Preparatory Committee (See A/CONF/48/PC/6) i.e. (a) human settlements, (b) use of natural resources and (c) pollution and other nuisances.

of topics will be supplemented by annotations which will be circulated by the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning to all participants. The CHBP will serve as a focal point for the preparation of the Secretariat reports and as such will receive contributions from the other agencies concerned, including UNIDO, which did not attend the sub-group meeting.

Review of the comprehensive list of "vertical" subjects

4. The Working Group reviewed the whole list of topics as it emerged both from the list agreed upon at its first meeting and from the discussion referred to in paragraph 3 above. Additional contributions were proposed by UNIDO and IAEA.

5. It was confirmed that agencies serving as focal points will circulate outlines to all other agencies for discussion and comments before 30 November 1970. It was understood that the Conference secretariat would eventually serve as final focal point for consolidation of all papers, which could possibly be incorporated within one comprehensive document to be presented to the Conference under the responsibility of the Secretary-General. Credit will naturally be given to all contributors.

6. A few points remained unsettled and should be discussed further either directly or by correspondence. This applies inter alia to the subject of water resources and ocean pollution with reference to the status of the report to be prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in co-operation with the specialized agencies and IAEA in response to General Assembly resolution 2566 (XXIV),

Promoting effective measures for the prevention and control of marine pollution

The Chairman, however, suggested that preparation already under way of outlines of papers on these subjects should continue until the next meeting when the situation would be reviewed. Regarding the part of the Conference agenda concerning legal, institutional and operational aspects of resources management, the Chairman stated that unless better arrangements could be agreed upon immediately work already started should continue in order to provide a comprehensive basis for further programme preparations which will be discussed at the next meeting (see paragraph 15).

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Universal declaration on the human environment

7. The representatives of the ILO and of the United Nations Legal Office introduced draft working papers and the representatives of other agencies put forward their suggestions. The Working Group was informed that the CHBP and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) were also working on the matter. Agencies which have not yet done so or which expressed specific objections or comments were requested to submit their views directly to the Conference secretariat.
8. The Working Group concentrated on the over-all structure of the declaration. It was generally agreed that it should be concise and easily understandable also by mass media and the general public. It should be limited to a set of principles.
9. It was tentatively agreed that the declaration should emphasize the responsibilities of the individual and of the various types of communities including national authorities and international organizations. It should also reflect as fully as possible a truly global approach taking into due consideration the views and needs of developing regions and not only problems as they appear in the industrial countries. A purely conservationist approach should be avoided. The declaration should be forward-looking and positive in character. As the Conference itself, it should be definitely conducive to action.
10. The United Nations system experience in drafting similar declarations (human rights, population, social development) would be fully drawn upon.

Structure of the Conference

11. The Director of the Secretariat submitted, for discussion purposes only, a paper outlining a possible structure of the Conference.
12. Great emphasis was laid on the need to structure it in such a manner as to achieve real participation of the developing countries and regions. Various proposals to this end were made which will be duly taken into account by the Conference Secretariat when finalizing a tentative agenda for submission to the second session of the Preparatory Committee.
13. Another essential principle to be borne in mind is that the work of the Conference should be organized in a straightforward manner enabling informed

policy-makers to define specific subjects requiring priority national and international action as well as the means of such priority action.

14. The distinction between "vertical" and "horizontal" or "strategic" approaches as outlined in the first report by the Secretary-General<sup>3/</sup> would provide a useful tool to achieve the two above-mentioned requirements. A preliminary list of subjects and means requiring priority international action was discussed.

Time-table and date of next meeting

15. The Chairman indicated that the month of December would represent a crucial stage. The financial framework within which the Conference will be prepared would by then have been determined by the General Assembly. The Preparatory Committee, which is to meet informally on 9 and 10 November 1970 would have given some more precise indications of its views concerning the agenda. Finally, all the outlines for the secretariat papers would have been circulated and many comments would have been received by 30 November 1970.

16. It was tentatively agreed to hold the next meeting of the Working Group in Geneva during the week starting on 7 December 1970. The final date would be communicated by the Conference secretariat in due time. If needed in the meantime, a telephone conference could be arranged, possibly towards mid-November.

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<sup>3/</sup> See E/4667.

## ANNEX

List of Participants

United Nations HQ, New York	J.A. Mussard	Director, Secretariat of the Human Environment Conference (Chairman)
	A. Ciborowski	Deputy Director, Centre for Housing, Building and Planning
	Nora Powell	Deputy Director, Population Division
	K.E. Hansson	Assistant Director, Resources and Transport Division
	Marc Nerfin	Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Office, Geneva	P. Raton	Legal Liaison Officer Office of the Director-General
ECE	A.S. Bishop	Director, Division of Environment and Housing
	J. Stván	Division of Environment and Housing
	V. Wullkopf	Division of Environment and Housing
UNIDO	J. Fath	Chief of Section, Industrial Technology Division
UNITAR	Richard Symonds	Representative in Europe
ILO	Aamir Ali	Chief, Relations and Conference Department
	J.A. Northcott	Safety and Health Branch
FAO	E. Saouma	Director, Land and Water Development Division
	P. Mahler	Human Environment Officer
UNESCO	M. Batisse	Director, Natural Resources Division
	M. Makagiansar	Department of Social Sciences

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WHO	M. Kaplan	Director, Office of Science and Technology
	M. Sacks	Chief, Programme Co-ordination
IBRD	J.A. King	Training Adviser, Office, Director of Projects
WMO	C.C. Wallén	Chief, Division of Scientific Programmes and Techniques
IMCO	S.L.D. Young	Head of Marine Science Section
IAEA	J.Y. Servant	Director, IAEA Office in Geneva
	G. Klevanski	

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